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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

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FL. 255

HELENA INDEPENDENT RECORD
HELENA, MONTANA

UNIVERSITY of MONTANA AUGUST, 1964

New Record Set As Job Expansion Continues

Continuing job expansion in Montana's diverse labor markets has pushed non-farm to the highest total ever recorded in the state. Estimates compiled by the Unemployment Compensation Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics set the number of wage earners on July payrolls of industry and commerce at 183,500. This figure is 800 higher than July, 1963 and shows an upswing of 600 from June of this year. The previous record of 183,300 was made in June, 1963, representing also the peak employment month of that year. August was the peak employment month in 1962. The August, 1964 employment figure could exceed the record breaking July total as healthy employment directions and seasonal job expansion continue.

19,000 Over February—July employment climbed 19,000 above the number earning wages at the seasonal low point last February. It reflects the extent of seasonal action on Montana's labor markets from the mid-winter low to the late summer high. Construction had 6,000 more wage earners in July than in February, from 8,600 to 14,600. Employment in trade establishments showed a gain of 4,200 workers. Manufacturing was up 1,900, of which 1,600 was in the lumbering industry. Government employment also participated in this

seasonal uptrend by 2,600 to a July total of 45,400.

Exceeds June By 600—Employment advances in four industry groups from June to July this year were powerful enough to outweigh declines in two others for a statewide gain of 600 workers. Employment in manufacturing firms rose by 500 to a total of 23,000. Trade establishments added 400 more workers to payrolls as business volume increased and the pace of tourist traffic accelerated. The start of new construction projects coupled with more expansion at existing ones made jobs for 900 more workers in July. Employment in the service industry groups showed a gain of 200 from June to July. Payrolls in statewide mining firms, and in finance, insurance and real estate establishments showed no change. Declines of 100 in the broad transportation, communications, and utilities segment, and 2,300 in government payrolls, all at the state and local level, represented the deficit side of the picture.

More Jobs Ahead—Good weather during the next few months will bring more seasonal job expansion in construction, agriculture, lumbering and logging, and in trade and service establishments. The main concentration of employment in the construction industry is in a heavy volume of high-

way projects. Yellowtail and Clark Canyon Dams, expansion of facilities at the aluminum plant at Columbia Falls, new college buildings, and in a variety building including new shopping centers, motels, retirement homes, schools, among others. While some of this activity will naturally diminish with the start of cold weather, it appears that there will be more winter construction in progress in Montana than usual. Logging and lumbering has set a fast pace and is hard pressed to find experienced timber fallers and mill hands in some areas. Employment in the hay and grain fields, in fruit orchards, and in the sweet corn fields add up to a good picture on the agricultural scene. Food processing plants are at their busy season, employing many youth and householders. The upcoming sugar beet harvest and refining operations will provide several thousand additional jobs.

Unemployment Claims Drop Sharply—Unemployment claims for the first week of August, 1964 were 700 below the same week last year. The claim low last year was recorded for the week of October 4 with 2,674 claims. If the present weekly claim decline trends continue, the low point of claims this year will be substantially under last year's figure.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	June 1964	May 1964	June 1963	June 1964	May 1964	June 1963	June 1964	May 1964	June 1963	June 1964	May 1964	June 1963	June 1964	May 1964	June 1963
All Manufacturing	7.3	5.7	7.9	6.7	4.8	6.7	3.6	3.6	4.9	2.4	2.6	3.2	.5	.3	.8
Durable Goods	8.1	7.0	9.2	7.4	6.0	7.7	4.1	4.3	5.8	2.8	3.1	3.5	.3	.3	1.0
Primary Metal	6.4	4.4	4.3	5.6	2.9	1.2	2.5	3.6	5.1	1.3	1.7	1.5	*	*	2.2
Nondurable Goods	5.8	3.1	4.9	5.2	2.6	4.3	2.7	2.0	2.8	1.6	1.6	2.3	.8	.1	.3
All Mining	9.2	8.9	8.1	6.5	6.3	4.9	7.1	6.6	8.7	4.3	3.8	5.1	.8	.7	1.4
Metal Mining	9.9	6.2	7.1	6.2	3.9	2.3	8.1	7.5	7.5	4.4	4.5	3.8	.8	.3	.2

* Less than .05

Along the Hiring Line — Field Summary July 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(201 jobseekers, 97 new, 109 men, 92 women). July job placements were chiefly in smelting, construction, and service industries. Good trends are expected to continue in most industries the next few months. Some consumer spending being delayed until results of labor negotiation contracts are known.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(2,264 jobseekers, 777 new, 1,471 men, 793 women). Labor market patterns holding up well in most industry groups. Major highway and building projects at peak employment. Several new trade and service establishments opened during the month providing jobs for 50 workers. Oil exploration and drilling at a good pace. Some shortages of truck drivers developed as transportation activities increased. Completion of sugar beet hoeing and thinning released 2,200 workers for jobs in other areas. Sweet corn harvest and canning to start mid-August will employ 200.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(166 jobseekers, 261 new, 98 men, 68 women). Employment in farm and industry rebounded during July after some setbacks in June because of wet weather. Construction contractors have full payrolls; new work includes 50 unit housing project at college. Good volume in trade and service establishments with increased tourism. Healthy farm labor demand exists.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,120 jobseekers, 421 new, 695 men, 425 women). July employment directions saw more hiring in metal mines, trade, service, and manufacturing industries. Construction payrolls now at apex with hiring for replacements only. Opening of new shopping center created demand for sales and clerical workers. More hiring occurred at meat packing plant as production increased.

CUT BANK—(283 jobseekers, 55 new, 201 men, 82 women). No appreciable change noted in labor market activities from last month. Practically no demand for construction workers but some upswing seen for next month as new projects start. Farm labor demand exceeds last year; excellent grain yields anticipated.

DILLON—(58 jobseekers, 122 new, 26 men, 32 women). Work in construction and agriculture continues in good force. A few construction projects nearing completion with some worker lay-off. Natural gas line to Dillon completed with service to be established

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE (In Thousands)

	July 64	June 64	July 63	June 64 to July 64	July 63 to July 64
Civilian Work Force	276.3	269.9	275.3	6.4	1.0
Total Employment	267.0	258.2	265.0	8.8	2.0
Total Non-agricultural Employment	215.0	213.3	211.5	1.7	3.5
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	183.5	182.9	182.7	.6	.8
Total Agricultural Employment	52.0	44.9	53.5	7.1	-1.5
Labor Management Disputes	.2	.2	*		.2
Total Unemployment	9.1	11.5	10.3	-2.4	-1.2
Percent Unemployed	3.3	4.3	3.7		
U. S. Unemployment Rate	NA	6.1	5.7		

*Less Than 50

by August 15. New projects include \$231,000 post office remodeling and new office building for utility firm. Farm labor demand extremely active.

GLASGOW, FORT PECK, MALTA, OPHEIM—(195 jobseekers, 120 new, 105 men, 90 women). High level of employment maintained throughout July with most skilled workers employed. Start of several new air base projects increased employment to 200. Trade and service volume equals last year. Brisk demand for hay hands. Grain harvest one week behind schedule.

GLENDALE, Circle, Wibaux—(58 jobseekers, 32 new, 38 men, 20 women). Good weather during July brought construction to full swing with work on 3 highway projects, shopping center, church, 4 service stations, and homes. Competition from shopping center forced closure of one small store. Wheat harvest 35 percent complete.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,200 jobseekers, 524 new, 591 men, 609 women). Industry hiring shows good advance over last year. Biggest upswing noted in trade industry hiring and to a lesser extent in construction, manufacturing, and utilities. Little change noted in service industry segments. Grain harvest 2 weeks behind last year.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(205 jobseekers, 61 new, 103 men, 102 women). Labor market trends kept fairly active during July as work expanded in highway and building construction, forestry, logging and lumbering, and the trade and service establishments. Farm labor demand existed for hay hands, irrigators, and raspberry pickers.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(88 jobseekers, 41 new, 36 men, 52 women). Area labor market trends holding fairly close to seasonal lines. Some decline noted in trade and service volume with fewer tourists due to flood damaged highway and bridges. Some major

building projects completed. Shortage of farm labor expected to develop through August as grain harvest progresses.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(397 jobseekers, 177 new, 219 men, 178 women). No spectacular trends exhibited by any industry throughout July. Labor demands only fair with clerical workers most needed. More than \$3½ million in building projects in progress but labor demand light. Lumber and logging required more workers. Farm labor demand accelerated but labor supply generally adequate.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(793 jobseekers, 508 new, 673 men, 120 women). Employment upswing occurred in most industry groups during July. Trade, construction, and lumber manufacturing set the pace. More than \$35 million in contract construction active. Saw mills and logging at peak levels. More than 300 workers placed in cherry orchards and packing sheds.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(111 jobseekers, 93 new, 64 men, 47 women). July labor market demand not too sharp due mainly to reduced volume of construction contracts this year. Last year 10 major projects totaling \$2 million were in progress; this year projects total only \$13,500. Farm labor demand shows good advances over last month and last year.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(114 jobseekers, 55 new, 60 men, 54 women). Positive trends covered most industries during July. Upswing noted in construction, trade, lumbering, and logging, and agriculture. Worker shortages include timber fallers, waitresses, cooks, and chamber maids. Younger workers urgently needed to fill vacancies at Yellowstone Park.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(119 jobseekers, 92 new, 73 men, 46 women). July labor

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	157.3	154.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	179.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	171.6	176.0	183.3	182.7	182.2	181.6	178.9	174.9	171.2	174.5
1964	165.3	164.5	164.6	169.6	174.4	182.9	183.5*						

*Preliminary Estimate

Along the Hiring Line — Field Summary July 1

market did not shape up to expectations due to limited construction and only slight demand in trade establishments. Some jobs go begging for lack of qualified local workers. Farm labor demand shows encouraging trends.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,385 jobseekers, 424 new, 913 men, 472 women). Construction set the labor demand pace during July. Mixed trends dominated other industries. Temporary shortages of carpenters and iron workers developed. Trade and service hiring has leveled off after heavy demand earlier. Worker demand in manufacturing edged up slightly due to labor turnover. Closure of brewery idled 50 workers.

POLSON—(452 jobseekers, 225 new, 242 men, 210 women). July labor demand was mostly for hay hands and trade and service industry workers. Sweet cherry harvest started late July with employment potential of 400. No major construction projects in sight; local contractors engaged mostly in home building and remodeling projects.

SHELBY—(134 jobseekers, 63 new, 113 men, 21 women). Fairly active labor market in industry and agriculture during July. Farm labor demand mostly for hay hands. Some small building construction projects completed. Main street hiring holds to good seasonal trends.

SIDNEY—(87 jobseekers, 45 new, 37 men, 50 women). Labor demand in most industries keeps nearly equal with the past few years. Main street employers enjoy good volume of business. Only small construction projects in evidence at present. Local labor supply adequate to meet increased farm labor demand.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(118 jobseekers, 62 new, 67 men, 51 women). Construction and forest service work provided most job orders during July. Lumbering and saw mills at peak activity but some mills still plagued by log shortages. Opening of new rest home at Hot Springs will require 15 nurses aides, now in training.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(100 jobseekers, 61 new, 68 men, 32 women). Good hiring trends evident in most trade and service units during July. Some shortages of cooks, waitresses, and mechanics developed. Most construction projects fully staffed with little need for additional help. Oil field activity diminished in both exploration and drilling phases. Substantial farm labor upturn for hay hands and grain harvest.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	July 1964 (2)	June 1964 (3)	July 1963	June '64 to July '64	July '63 Against July '64
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	183,500	182,900	182,700	600	800
Manufacturing	23,000	22,500	23,500	500	— 500
Durable goods	15,100	14,700	15,500	400	— 400
Lumber and timber products	10,000	9,700	9,500	300	500
Primary metals	3,400	3,300	3,200	100	200
Other (4)	1,700	1,700	2,800	00	—1,100
Nondurable goods	7,900	7,800	8,000	100	— 100
Food and kindred products	4,400	4,200	4,500	200	— 100
Printing and publishing	1,600	1,600	1,600	00	00
Petroleum refining	1,200	1,200	1,200	00	00
Other (5)	700	800	700	—100	00
Mining	7,500	7,500	7,000	00	500
Metal mining	4,900	4,900	4,000	00	900
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	1,000	1,000	1,000	00	00
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,600	1,600	2,000	00	— 400
Contract Construction	14,600	13,700	15,500	900	— 900
Contractors, building construction	3,800	3,800	4,700	00	— 900
Contractors, other than building	5,700	5,000	5,600	700	100
Contractors, special trade	5,100	4,900	5,200	200	— 100
Transportation and utilities	18,000	18,100	18,500	—100	— 500
Interstate railroads	7,900	7,900	8,300	00	— 400
Transportation except railroads	4,100	4,100	4,200	00	— 100
Utilities including communication	6,000	6,100	6,000	—100	00
Trade	42,400	42,000	42,400	400	00
Wholesale trade	8,600	8,500	8,800	100	— 200
Retail trade	33,800	33,500	33,600	300	200
General merchandise and apparel	6,200	6,200	6,200	00	00
Food stores	4,500	4,500	4,900	00	— 400
Eating and drinking establishments	10,000	9,900	9,500	100	500
Automotive and filling stations	6,700	6,600	6,700	100	00
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,400	6,300	6,300	100	100
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,900	6,900	7,000	00	— 100
Services and miscellaneous	25,700	25,500	25,700	200	00
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	5,000	5,000	4,900	00	100
Personal services	2,200	2,200	2,200	00	00
Other (6)	18,500	18,300	18,600	200	— 100
Government	45,400	46,700	43,100	—1,300	2,300
Federal	13,600	13,600	13,900	00	— 300
State and local	31,800	33,100	29,200	—1,300	2,600
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	23,300	22,600	24,100	700	— 800
Manufacturing	3,200	3,200	3,900	00	— 700
Contract construction	2,300	1,900	2,600	400	— 300
Transportation and utilities	2,200	2,200	2,200	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	6,000	5,900	5,800	100	200
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	4,100	3,900	4,200	200	— 100
Government	4,200	4,200	4,100	00	100
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	24,100	24,300	23,600	—200	500
Manufacturing	2,700	2,700	2,700	00	00
Contract construction	1,800	1,800	1,500	00	300
Transportation and utilities	2,500	2,500	2,600	00	— 100
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,700	7,600	7,400	100	300
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,400	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,400	4,500	4,300	—100	100
Government	3,600	3,800	3,700	—200	— 100

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 739 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,240 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN JULY 1964 AND JULY 1963

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers In File				Job Placement								UI Claims*	
	July 1964		July 1963		July 1964		July 1963		July 1964				July 1963				Wk. 7-31	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1964	1963
Anaconda	97	10	114	8	201	13	455	33	105	32	137	14	61	34	95	21	94	152
Billings	777	151	927	202	2,264	405	1,957	359	545	1,209	1,754	318	597	1,514	2,111	251	614	507
Bozeman	261	60	237	46	166	35	300	36	210	180	390	66	189	179	368	55	43	53
Butte	421	39	435	77	1,120	153	873	136	186	29	215	45	105	21	126	34	357	391
Cut Bank	55	6	52	12	283	63	263	75	50	127	177	53	66	122	188	67	53	54
Dillon	122	57	74	30	58	12	63	6	46	195	241	99	34	241	275	119	27	30
Glasgow	120	14	95	15	195	16	134	9	98	98	196	34	96	95	191	32	43	57
Glendive	32	1	69	8	58	3	120	18	62	907	969	9	49	928	977	15	11	31
Great Falls	524	87	727	139	1,200	209	1,871	324	402	506	908	188	257	1,023	1,280	207	455	700
Hamilton	61	7	72	7	205	14	187	31	69	157	226	24	70	164	234	33	48	55
Havre	41	3	72	8	88	5	87	10	72	152	224	82	84	613	697	78	57	45
Helena	177	18	183	33	397	50	391	69	198	277	475	99	226	127	353	117	177	150
Kalispell	508	89	354	54	793	151	1,081	261	476	254	730	121	180	82	262	45	230	551
Lewistown	93	19	123	18	111	18	186	38	44	153	197	54	103	113	216	53	61	95
Livingston	55	4	55	7	114	7	144	21	137	125	262	52	123	111	234	60	37	40
Miles City	92	10	95	17	119	13	104	19	67	365	432	11	78	505	583	26	45	64
Missoula	424	54	483	90	1,385	182	1,119	190	321	241	562	87	303	213	516	120	187	229
Polson	225	2	85	3	452	6	301	38	59	68	127	21	55	50	105	14	53	67
Shelby	63	17	83	17	134	18	177	18	58	63	121	27	65	88	153	30	19	25
Sidney	45	6	76	12	87	8	106	6	59	793	852	25	65	935	1,000	19	15	24
Thomp. Falls	62	7	76	10	118	14	82	17	55	14	69	17	49	8	57	13	30	36
Wolf Point	61	8	41	9	100	21	63	5	20	137	157	16	36	94	130	35	34	33
TOTALS	4,316	669	4,528	822	9,648	1,416	10,064	1,719	3,339	6,082	9,421	1,462	2,891	7,260	10,151	1,444	2,690	3,389

*Includes 208 claims of the Fed. UC Program 186 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	July (1) 1961	June (2) 1964	July 1963	July (1) 1964	June (2) 1964	July 1963	July (1) 1964	June (2) 1964	July 1963
All Manufacturing	114.06	109.21	101.19	42.4	40.3	37.9	2.69	2.71	2.67
Durable Goods	113.10	105.44	96.94	43.5	40.4	37.0	2.60	2.61	2.62
Primary Metals	111.66	111.11	108.40	40.9	40.7	40.0	2.73	2.73	2.71
Nondurable Goods	114.29	116.29	109.18	40.1	40.1	39.7	2.85	2.90	2.75
Food and Kindred Products	105.08	107.52	91.65	42.2	42.0	41.1	2.49	2.56	2.23
All Mining	113.84	113.02	114.09	38.2	37.8	42.1	2.93	2.99	2.71
Metal Mining	115.75	115.14	112.18	38.2	38.0	39.5	3.03	3.03	2.84
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	108.25	108.25	104.67	38.8	38.8	39.8	2.79	2.79	2.63

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANAUCC BUILDING
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